FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

16 JANUARY 1984

Lebanon

Military/Security Situation — U.S. warships shelled hostile positions in the mountains southeast of Beirut after Marine positions near the airport came under fire, Beirut radio reported on 15 January. Two people were killed and 10 others were injured when shells fell in Beirut the following morning, according to the radio. The Lebanese Army exchanged fire with its opponents around the capital over the weekend, the radio noted, and three Lebanese soldiers were wounded on 14 January. Jerusalem radio reported that attacks continued against the IDF in southern Lebanon, according to AFP, while Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri warned that Islamic fighters will step up their attacks against Israeli forces.

Death of Haddad — "Free Lebanon" leader Major Sa'd Haddad died on 14 January and will be buried in Marj 'Uyun on 16 January, Voice of Hope radio announced. At the weekly Cabinet meeting, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir praised Haddad as a "great Lebanese patriot," Jerusalem radio noted. While the radio asserted that Israel and Lebanon have "agreed" that Colonel Ilyas Khalil will replace Haddad as commander of the "free Lebanon" militia, a military source cited by Beirut radio denied this, stating that Col Khalil is a Lebanese Army officer commanding the Arzun sector and has "absolutely no connection with the border militia."

Meanwhile, "authoritative" Israeli sources denied that a successor has been appointed and affirmed that the appointment is the prerogative of the Lebanese Government, according to Jerusalem radio's Arabic service.

Diplomacy — The foreign ministers of Lebanon, Syria, and Saudi Arabia will discuss the Lebanese problem at a meeting in Rabat, where they are attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference, Jidda radio reported. Meanwhile, presidential envoy Donald Rumsfeld returned to Beirut where he met with President Amin al-Jumayyil on 16 January, according to Beirut radio. Rumsfeld also held talks on the security plan with Nabih Birri, but "did not achieve decisive results and the question of the plan remained suspended," the radio said. Earlier, the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) issued a statement describing the security plan as a "political trap" and rejecting any redeployment of the Lebanese Army before political reconciliation is realized, the Army's tasks are defined, and its command is reorganized, Radio Monte Carlo reported. In Moscow, PSP leader Walid Junblatt held talks with Soviet leaders on 13 January, TASS noted.

Syria

During his meeting with Rumsfeld on 13 January, President Hafiz al-Asad reaffirmed Syria's demand for the annulment of the May 1983 Lebanese-Israeli agreement and stressed that Syrian forces will leave Lebanon "only through agreement with the Lebanese brothers" and when there are no other foreign forces in Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. It is "inconceivable" for Syria to equate its presence in Lebanon with the Israeli presence there, he said, and Syria cannot link its withdrawal with the Israelis'. The United States can play a "positive role" in working toward a "just peace" in the Middle East if it adopts a "neutral stand" on the Arab-Israeli conflict, he contended.

A subsequent Damascus radio commentary on Rumsfeld's visit warned that if President Reagan fails to change his policy, "the dialogue with this administration will be between the deaf" and the loser will be the U.S. Administration and U.S. interests. An Arab diplomatic source cited by Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* claimed that Reagan will meet with Al-Asad in early spring, according to KUNA.

ICO Summit

The delegations arriving in Casablanca to participate in the Fourth Summit of the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) on 16 January included Saudi Arabia, represented by King Fahd, Syria, represented by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Iraq, represented by Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, and the PLO, represented by Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, according to Riyadh and Rabat radio reports.

At the conclusion of the 13 January session of the Islamic foreign ministers conference held in Rabat in preparation for the summit, ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti told newsmen the conferees had approved several draft resolutions including a demand for the "unconditional and urgent withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan," Rabat radio reported. Libya, Syria, and the PDRY expressed reservations on the resolution, according to KUNA.

Meanwhile, Iran, which has refused to participate in the ICO summit, is hosting a delegation from the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, Tehran radio stated. During a 15 January meeting with the visitors, reported by the radio, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi expressed "surprise" that "such a person as King Hassan is the host" since "Islam is not the religion of the kings and shahs" but "the religion of the masses and the oppressed."

PLO Affairs

After attending the ICO summit in Casablanca, Yasir 'Arafat will go to Amman for talks aimed at reviving the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported on 14 January. The radio noted that PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir has already arrived in Jordan to prepare for 'Arafat's visit and, according to Radio Monte Carlo, Al-Wazir announced that he will henceforth reside in Amman, which he left in April after the breakdown of the dialogue. As for the PLO's internal problems, Al-Wazir affirmed that the PFLP and DFLP will remain in the organization despite their differences with 'Arafat, but that it will be impossible to find a common ground with organizations "taking their orders from Damascus," according to AFP.

In another development, the Soviet ambassador to Tunisia delivered a "very important" message to 'Arafat as PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas arrived in Moscow to deliver a message from 'Arafat to Yuriy Andropov, according to KUNA.

Egypt

Egypt has notified Israel and the United States that it regrets" Israel's refusal to allow 160 Palestinians to leave Israel to participate in the forthcoming PNC session, MENA reported. Meanwhile, in an interview with *LE FIGARO* reported by Cairo radio, President Husni Mubarak said the Arabs have not yet given President Reagan the opportunity to renew his peace initiative and outline his real intentions. Also commenting on the Reagan plan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali told *LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS* that Egypt is urging the Palestinians to negotiate and is telling them that this does not mean that they will have accepted the Reagan plan.

Libya

Lebanon will become a "volcano" for the Multinational Force and the Phalangists unless the Israeli-Lebanese agreement is abrogated and the Multinational and Israeli forces withdraw, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud stated before leaving Damascus in remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo and AFP. Although the Americans are trying to lower tension in Lebanon because of the impending presidential election, "we will not let them succeed and we will make this year the year of the explosion," he declared. Jallud said Libya is ready to give financial and military support to the Lebanese National Salvation Front and the Amal Movement and, according to Damascus radio, he also "indicated Libya's full material and military support for the Fatah uprising."

Tunisia

Former Interior Minister Driss Guiga formed a "shadow" government to replace Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali's administration during the recent riots, according to a Tunis press report cited by KUNA. Another Tunis paper reported that Libya has responded to Tunisia's note over the sabotage of an oil pipeline by sending the Tunisian authorities a memorandum saying that the bombing was carried out by Tunisians who penetrated Libyan territory in order to give the impression that the operation emanated from Libya, according to KUNA. The memorandum stated that Libya is ready to participate in joint border patrols and to help repair the damage. The Tunisian minister of national economy subsequently announced that the pipeline has been repaired and pumping has been resumed, Tunis radio noted.

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BBC: Rebel Positions Around Orgun Attacked

TA151540 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] Afghan Government sources are reported to have broken a prolonged siege by antigovernment rebels around the important garrison town of Orgun in the southeast of the country, about 20 miles from the Pakistani border. According to Afghan resistance sources in Pakistan, rebel positions in the area are now under heavy attack both from the air and on the ground. From Islamabad, Ian Howe:

[Begin recording] The Afghan sources say the Orgun garrison was relieved in the middle of last week. An Army convoy protected by aircraft broke through the guerrilla lines and managed to reach the garrison by road, the first time this has been done for many months. The sources say there are up to 4,000 well-armed guerrillas in the area. They had mounted a siege of Orgun last September, after picking off several outposts, and late last month they attempted a direct assault on the garrison itself. The government had been resupplying the town by air, and even that link is said to have been severed for a time a few weeks ago. According to the resistance sources, at least 100 government troops were killed during the siege and the defending force had been reduced to about 300 men, less than half the number that were there 6 months ago.

The guerrillas regard Orgun as an important strategic target. They say that if it fell they would be able to move men and supplies northwards much more easily. But, it now seems they have been driven back firmly onto the defenses. The resistance sources say since the government reinforcements arrived there have been heavy air attacks on concentrations of guerrillas around the town. Ground forces, including tanks, are also said to be involved. A number of resistance casualties is not yet known. The most detailed account of the government breakthrough given by a proresistance news agency, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS, says that the Afghan relief column accompanied by a few Soviet advisers surprised the guerrillas by taking a different route from the one used in previous attempts to reach Orgun. The agency says the Soviet column later went to the town. There is heavy snow in the area and some reports say that the government troops penetrated the guerrilla lines at a point where they had been weakened by shortages of food, blankets, and heavy ammunition. [end recording]

Mujahidin Control Power Station in Parwan Province

GF131130 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 3 Jan 84 P 10

[Text] Peshawar, Jan. 2: The Mujahideen in the Parwan Province are reported to have taken the control of the second biggest power station in Afghanistan.

The Mujahideen have assigned their own engineers and personnel at the station and are collecting the revenues of the station which supplies electricity to three counties in Kapisa Province besides supplying power to the whole of Parwan Province.

Another report from the Parwan Province says that the Mujahideen have destroyed eight Russian tanks near the Bagram airbase last week. The report says that these tanks were part of the airbase security and were smashed either by rocket launchers or anti-tank mines. No crew of the destroyed tanks survived.

In the meanwhile, the Mujahideen at Charasyab County have overrun a military post in the area last week. According to report the commander of the post along with four other members of the Parcham Party were killed.

Results of Security Forces Operations Reported

LD141854 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Continuing to crush the counterrevolutionary bands in various regions of the country, as a result of a recent operation, the country's vigilant security forces in Soleyman village, Shakar Darreh District, arrested a 25-man group of the criminals belonging to Gulbuddin, along with their ringleaders, (Qabodin) and Khaja Habibullah.

A security forces spokesman said that a large number of weapons and ammunition made in the United States, China,and Egypt were seized from these killers and thieves, and their hideouts were found and destroyed.

According to another report, 11 counterrevolutionaries were crushed in the surroundings of Balkh Province and as a result 11 Egyptian and Chinese Kalashnikovs, 30 [words indistinct] of mortar, and a motor-vehicle were siezed.

In another security forces operation launched in Soltani village and the vicinity of Sharan, more than 120 rebels were crushed. Two mortars, 2 light weapons, 36 rounds of ammunition, rocket launchers, 13 antitank mines, 48 recoilless artillery shells, 9,530 rounds of ammunition for light weapons, and 1,305 rounds of DShk ammunition were seized.

PDPA Letter to Austrian Socialist Party

LD142134 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Open letter of PDPA Central Committee addressed to Austrian Socialist Party leadership]

[Excerpts] P. Jankowitsch, one of the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party, at an anti-Afghan gathering in Vienna recently, said that his party plans to create an Afghanistan Solidarity Committee to support the so-called Afghan resistance forces. The sinister aim hidden in such provocations is clear. Our national democratic revolution in the process of its consolidation has achieved new successes and gained more victories and its irreversibility has become certain. This is a bitter fact for those forces in conflict with the aspirations, real freedom, and prosperity of the masses.

Prior to the victory of the April Revolution, the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party, whether they were in coalition govern-

ments or governing on their own, never thought of our country and people and their (?numerous) problems caused by the tyranny of monarchy and despotism. Now, waen real horizons of prosperity and wellbeing are opened before our people, the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party, in one voice with reactionary and imperialist circles, as accomplices in the crimes of a bunch of terrorist and saboteur counterrevolutionaries, have risen in hostility against our revolution.

In this blind imitation of imperialism headed by the warmongering, aggressive, and criminal Reagan administration, the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party have restored the myth of the occupation of Afghanistan and are promoting all sorts of provocations under the name of informing people about the true situation in Afghanistan. It is, then, surprising that the leaders of the Austrian Socialist Party aim to defend peace and show devotion to the Nonaligned Movement.

In such conditions and with the many serious threats directed at our country's independence and territorial integrity, the repetition of the myth of the occupation of Afghanistan is nothing but an unforgivable insult to our free people and homeland and an insult to the sincere and traditional friendship between the people of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The DRA has time and again officially and frankly announced that once the factors and reasons which have led to the invitation of the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union, in accordance to the UN Charter and based on the treaty of friendship, good neighborliness, and cooperation between the two countries, have been eliminated — that is with the elimination of external threats and aggression — and international guarantees given, the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union will return to their peaceful country.

Neither Washington, Islamabad, or Tehran has examined our honesty and good intentions in this matter; they have only given wider dimensions to their interference and aggressions against the DRA in order to preserve tension in the region and in the world and to have a pretext and [word indistinct] propaganda.

The completely wrong stance of the Austrian Socialist Party, which stems either from unawareness of the realities in our country or from a calculated objective, can only add to the extended psychological war waged by the Washington administration and its allies and servants against our revolution and country. This stance, which is only serving the warmongering and aggressive forces, is no way the reaction of the will of the Austrian people and is contrary to their struggle for peace, against plundering and aggression.

No doubt, the toilers of Austria and all progressive forces of this country will give an appropriate answer to provocations such as this action of the Austrian Socialist Party, an answer in support of the just struggle of the people of Afghanistan and in solidarity with people who are struggling for the creation of a humane society and to secure peace in their country, region, and world.

[Signed] Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Kabul, January 1984

Razmjo Receives Soviet Delegation 13 January

LD132335 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Zohur Razmjo, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of Kabul City Party Committee, today in his office met Nikolay Ivanovich (Olivlo), vice chairman of the executive committee of the Moscow People's Council, and his accompanying delegation.

During this meeting, with Kabul Mayor Wali Mohammad Abdiani, also present, discussions were held on city services, problems of [word indistinct] construction, city transport services, implementation of Kabul City's 25-year master plan, and other subjects.

The Soviet delegation, which has recently arrived in Kabul, promised all round aid and cooperation to the Kabul City Party Committee and municipality. At the end of the meeting, the delegaton toured various parts of the city.

Prime Minister Addresses Nation 15 January

BK1606 36 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1615 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Address to nation by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi delivered on 15 January — recorded]

[Text] Brothers and sisters. We have just celebrated Shankranti. It is the harvest festival in many parts of India. In Tamil Nadu, it is known as Pongal. To my fellow Indians all over the country, I give my warm greetings. Also yesterday my government completed 4 years. We pledged ourselves anew to our historic endeavor of building a strong, self-confident, self-reliant, independent India. Now is the time to take stock of what we have done. Now is the time to think about the next stage of our long journey.

These 4 years have not been easy. We inherited a damaged infrastructure and a shattered economy marked by high inflation rate, slow growth, and severe problems of balance of payments. Our difficulties were compounded by 2 successive years of drought. The failure of rains in 1982-83 was the most widespread known in this century. The international economic environment was, and continues to be, one of exceptional difficulty for developing countries.

India's security is threatened as never before. The defense burden has increased enormously. These challenges we have faced resolutely without any slackening of our development efforts. Taken together, the 4 years illustrate what our country can do when government works with a will toward a clear goal. Let us look at some examples of our achievements. May I tell you where we had been and where we are now? Foodgrain production this year is expected to touch an all time high, crossing the 140 million tons mark. The credit for this goes to Indian farmers who had taken advantage of the improved facilities which we provided. As one example, 8 million hectares of additional irrigation potential has been created.

It would take too long to go into every aspect of our progress. I shall mention a few. Power generation has increased by 50 percent because of the substantial increase in installed capacity and better utilization. This has not been generally appreciated because demand has grown and is growing even faster as a result of the revival in our economy. Petroleum production has risen sharply from 10.51 million tons to 26 million tons. Similarly, the production of coal, cement, and fertilizers has registered significant increases.

Under the revised 20-point program, the integrated rural development program has helped 10 million families and generated employment of 1,240 million mandays. The two schemes which I announced last independence day — employment guarantee for the rural landless and self-employment for the educated young — have made a solid beginning. The level of our investment in the sixth plan in the last 4 years is 65 percent or two-thirds higher than in the fifth.

The world is caught up in the whirlwind of unprecedented technological changes. Can India afford not to keep in step? We have to revolutionize our production structure to absorb the new technologies. Our scientific and technological infrastructure can meet the challenge of modernization. There is new dimension among our scientists. With their help, we have put our own satellite in space and have commissioned the first Indian designed nuclear power station. Although highly sophisticated, these projects are closely linked with the needs of the common people.

Two major international conferences were held in Delhi. In March 1983, the Seventh Nonaligned Summit provided a new direction to the international community in its search for peace. It also gave a framework for the restructuring of international economic relations on the basis of equality and justice. In November 1983, the Commonwealth heads of government conference carried further the process of bringing the industrialized and the developing countries together for the larger good of all humankind.

We have restored the original thrust of our foreign policy with its commitment to nonalignment and peace, to friendship and cooperation. India is once again in the forefront of a common struggle of nations for peace and development for all.

Coming to the present, we are now in the process of formulating the seventh plan. Each stage of development must carry the growth process further. Indeed, I should like the process of growth itself to be basically altered and so structured as to progressively reduce social and economic inequality. In this plan, we want to help the poor to get greater employment and increase their productivity to earn more. In agriculture, we propose to take up a special program for regions where the yield is low in rice. The wheat revolution will be extended to areas which have not so far benefited. Dryland farming will be put on a secure basis. Social forestry will be emphasized to meet the basic fuel, fodder, and construction needs of village communities.

I share your worry about the price situation. In particular, women who have to manage households have had to grapple with increasing difficulty in recent months. Our efficient management of the public distribution system prevented shortages and mitigated distress. But a natural calamity of such vast proportions was bound to leave adverse effects.

One is the rising prices, although inflation had been brought down earlier from 23 percent at the end of 1979 to less then 3 percent in 1982-83. I am only too conscious of the hardships of families with low or fixed incomes. Tonight, I should like to assure you that the government is making every effort to maintain price stability. We have taken action to strengthen fiscal discipline, to drastically cut down unproductive expenditure, and to intervene the suitable policy instruments to control the prices of commodities which are important to family budgets. Last week, instructions were given to ministries and agencies of the central government. I need your cooperation to combat the unhealthy and antisocial activities of a section of the community which manipulates scarcity to its advantage but to the cost of millions of households. We have several programs to help the unemployed and the irregularly employed. Even so their incomes are uncertain and inadequate and their minimum nutrition needs must be ensured. So we have decided that for persons working in the national rural employment program or in the rural employment guarantee program, wheat will be made available at 1 rupee

50 paisa per kg throughout out country. This subsidy will be borne entirely by the central government. For its successful implementation, we need the cooperation of state governments.

From the previous regime, we inherited a severe crisis of balance of payments. We had to have orderly adjustments which would not cut into growth. We asked for assistance from the International Monetary Fund for support of our balance of payments. An extended arrangement was worked out under which India was expected to receive 5 billion SDR for its adjustment program. At that time, I assured my fellow citizens that in no circumstances would the adjustment program mean the slightest deviation from our basic economic and social policies. I assured them also that we would use the foreign exchange facilities extended by the IMF prudently and in keeping with our strong commitment to our policy of self-reliance. These promises we have kept. Our policies of import substitution and of building indigenous capabilities in key areas have paid rich dividends. The policies and programs followed since 1980 have generated capabilities to adequately meet our external obligations. Much has still to be done. However, what is important is that the direction has been set. As a result of the careful management of our foreign exchange resources during the last 4 years, we have now reached the position where we do not have to draw the balance of $1.1 billion available under the credit arrangements with the IMF. Early this month after several weeks of studying the various aspects involved, government took the formal decision to inform the IMF that because of our improved foreign exchange situation, we have voluntarily decided not to avail ourselves of the balance. And last week, a senior official was sent to Washington to convey this. We appreciate the cooperation of international financial institutions. The IMF has problems in meeting mounting demands from other developing countries whose balance of payments positions are acute. I hope that India's decision not to draw the balance of credit will help the IMF, though in a small way, to give more help to other developing countries.

By no means are our problems at an end, but we have successfully resolved the crisis into which the previous government had led our country and had bequeathed to us in 1980.

One of the major objectives of our foreign policy is cooperation with other developing countries, but we can pursue our plans of development only if the atmosphere of confrontation in our neighborhood and internationally is changed. Unfortunately, the cold war is at our very doorstep. Let us beware of anything which causes division among ourselves and weakens our country. We must work together to make it strong and prosperous. We must weld together the unity and integrity of our country. We must stand together in its defense. Each one of us, every group, every region will gain when our country is strong, and a strong and stable India will be a staunch champion of peace and friendship among nations.

Brothers and sisters, the time is one of challenge and of opportunity. Let our country not find us wanting. Jai Hind [hail India].

AFP: Government Orders List of Retired Officers

BK150721 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 15 (AFP) — The Indian Government has ordered intelligence agencies to prepare a list of the occupations of senior army and civil officers who have retired in the last two years, following reports of alleged leaks of defence secrets to foreign powers, the daily *INDIAN EXPRESS* reported today.

The government is contemplating some checks on senior officers taking up employment with private companies and overseas firms immediately after retirement, the paper said. Special scrutiny is being given to top-ranking officers who had sought voluntary retirement to take up jobs with private companies.

The decision was taken as a sequel to the recent arrest of a retired major general and his retired air vice marshal brother for allegedly passing sensitive defence secrets to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). A retired lt. colonel and a businesman were also arrested along with the two senior officers.

The paper quoting reliable sources said Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had expressed concern over the alleged leaks and was keeping a close watch on investigations.

The Defence Ministry has also been asked to supply a list of senior officers of the rank of brigadier and above who have been granted permission to take up jobs after retirement.

The government action followed intelligence reports that a few senior military officers joined some big industrial firms with links with western arms manufacturers soon after retirement.

A special watch is also being maintained on the business activities of the close relatives of officials holding sensitive military and defence positions, the paper added.

Concern Conveyed to Pakistan Over Disappearances

BK131605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] India has conveyed its serious concern to Pakistan over the mysterious disappearance of two servants of an Indian diplomat in Islamabad 11 days ago.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that the two servants — Virendra Thakur and Krishna Kumar Gupta — had been approached earlier also by the Pakistan security personnel deployed outside the diplomat's residence and the circumstances of the case indicate some foul play. They were not even carrying their travel documents and, therefore, they are obviously held somewhere within Pakistan.

India's concern has been communicated to the Pakistan Government both in Islamabad and in New Delhi through the respective

ambassadors. The Pakistan Government has been reminded of its responsibility for the security of the personnel of the Indian mission in that country.

The two servants have been missing since the early hours of the 2d of this month. The Pakistan Government says that they are not in their custody, but the authorities are making efforts to (?trace) them.

Secretary Departs for Tunis To Meet 'Arafat

BK121453 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Ramesh Bhandari, has gone to Tunis to get a first hand assessment of the situation in West Asia from the PLO chief, Mr 'Arafat. He will also be visiting Algeria in the same connection.

Mr Bhandari has been associated with the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, as the chairperson of the Non-aligned Movement for a settlement to the Palestinian problem.

A foreign ministers committee on Palestine set up at the non-aligned summit also visited the region recently under the leadership of the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, but they were unable to meet Mr 'Arafat.

Mr Bhardari's present visit is a follow up of the earlier initiatives.

Reportage on Calcutta Meeting of Opposition Leaders

BK131005 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A 3-day meeting of opposition leaders began in Calcutta this morning. Opening it the CPI-M leader, Mr Jyoti Basu, said that a strong India can be built by legitimate sharing of power between the center and the states. He said the Sarkaria Commission was set up nearly a year ago but little has emerged so far.

Mr Basu expressed the hope that besides center-state relations, the meeting will have time to discuss suggestions mooted by the Election Commission for electoral reforms and the role of governors. He said the conference is being held at a time when the nation is facing a number of acute problems. It is up to the opposition to agree on a set of minimum programs to cope with the situation, he said.

Mr Basu charged the Congress-I with trying to destabilize non-Congress-I state governments.

Referring to the economic situation, he alleged that the Congress-I is giving up the goal of self-reliance. He also criticized the central government for, what he called, indiscriminate borrowing from the international financial institutions and private foreign banks.

The meeting is being attended by the leaders of 19 opposition parties.

In a booklet published on the occasion, the CPI-M has refuted the charge made against it by the Congress-I leadership during its recent session in Calcutta.

Resolution on Punjab

BK151311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The 3-day meeting of opposition leaders ended in Calcutta today. In a resolution, they demanded that the tripartite meeting on Punjab should be reconvened immediately to work out an amicable solution of the pending issues. It has called upon the political parties and others to jointly launch a movement for the preservation of communal harmony in towns and villages of Punjab. The meeting has also asked them to strongly condemn all acts of violence. Sanctity of places of worship should be respected and any attempt to desecrate or harbor killers in any place of worship should be denounced.

It has pointed out that the New Delhi resolution of opposition parties has supported the broad agreement reached in the tripartite meeting. It said that Chandigarh should go to Punjab and certain areas of Punjab should be transferred to Haryana. Haryana is to be given adequate financial compensation for building its capital.

15 January Conclusion

BK151704 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The 3-day meeting of opposition leaders ended in Calcutta today. In a resolution, they demanded that tripartite talks on Punjab should be resumed immediately to work out an amicable solution of all the pending issues.

In another resolution, the opposition meeting alleged that the Congress-I is attempting to destabilize non-Congress-I governments. The resolution on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and backward classes and minorities calls for speedy the implementation of various recommendations of the National Integration Council and the Minorities Commission for their welfare.

Briefing newsmen, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said that a meeting of these parties will be held in New Delhi this month to ensure implementation of the decisions reached at the Calcutta meeting. He said the next meeting of the opposition parties will be held in Madras; the date will be decided later. In reply to a question, Mr Basu termed the Bharatiya Janata Party as a communal party.

4 Killed, 29 Injured in Kashmir Valley Clashes

BK151631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Excerpts] There was fresh trouble in the Kashmir Valley with clashes between Congress-I demonstrators and police at (Kokar

nagh, Shopian, and Pulwama. Reports say that police used tear gas and lathi [baton] charges to disperse the demonstrators. According to a spokesman of the Congress-I, 29 persons were injured in today's incidents. The spokesman also said that the death toll in yesterday's firing had gone up to nine. However, official figures put the death toll at four.

Eight Congress-I members of Parliament have called upon all democratic and nationalist forces to fight against elements trying to endanger the unity of the country. In a statement in New Delhi today, they said that these elements are supporting regional, communal, and secessionist forces in the name of greater autonomy for the states. They condemned the attack on peaceful demonstrators in Jammu and Kashmir. The signatories to the statement are Mr K.K. Tiwari, Mr N.K. Sharma, Mr R.L. Bhatia, Mr Ananda Gopal Mukherjee, Mr (Sibte Razi), Mr Bhufran Azam, Dr K.S. Bhoye, and Mrs Margaret Alva.

The Congress-I general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, and the chairman of the party's minority cell, Mr Gulsher Ahmad, have demanded a judicial probe into the incidents. In a joint statement, Mr P. Namgyal, MP, and Mr (Ghoshak Bakula), former MP from Ladakh, have blamed the Jammu and Kashmir Government for its alleged failure to maintain law and order and its inability to check antinational elements. The chairman of the Awami Action Committee, Mirwaiz Maulana Mohammad Farooq, has demanded a high-level inquiry into yesterday's police firing in Kashmir Valley.

Congress-I workers held a demonstration at Calcutta Airport today as the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, was leaving the city. They were protesting against yesterday's police firing on Congress-I demonstrators in the Kashmir Valley. The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, denounced the demonstration.

Further Incidents; Strike Called

BK160754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Reports from Jammu speak of a bundh [strike] there today. The call for the bundh was given by the Jammu and Kashmir pradesh [state] Congress-I to protest against the alleged repression, lathi [baton] charge, and firing in which about nine Congress-I supporters were killed in the valley during the last 2 days. Business establishments have remained closed and vehicular traffic has been paralyzed.

Reports also speak of further clashes between the police and Congress-I workers. The state Pradesh Congress-I Committee general secretary, Mr Mangat Ram, has said that eight party workers including Mr Madan Lal have been arrested this morning. The state government has ordered closure of all educational institutions in Jammu for today. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated within the municipal limits of Jammu city for 1 month. An official announcement said assembly of five or more people has been banned.

The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has described the loss of life in the recent police firing in his state as most unfortunate. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he alleged there is a calculated move to dislodge his government by holding violent demonstrations and causing damage to public property. Dr Abdullah said a white paper on the current happenings in the state will be brought out soon.

Kashmir Congress Party Condemns Police Excesses

BK151248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Congress-I legislature party has condemned the alleged police excesses on peaceful demonstrators of the party in the Kashmir Valley yesterday. At an emergency meeting held in Jammu today, the party reiterated its demand that the center should take serious note of the happenings in the valley. The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party chief, Mr Bhim Singh, condemning the police firing, has demanded a judicial inquiry into it.

Spokesman: Indian Diplomat's Servants Untraceable

BK131730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that, despite an energetic investigation by the police authorities, the case of alleged disappearance of two domestic servants of an Indian diplomat so far remains unsolved. He categorically stated that the two servants are not and were at no point in the custody of the Pakistani authorities. He described the reported allegation by the Indian Embassy officials in Islamabad that these servants were suspected to have been picked up by Pakistani authorities as not only totally baseless but also irresponsible.

The spokesman said the Indian Embassy informed the Pakistani Foreign Office that the two domestic servants of the Indian diplomat were untraceable since the 2d of this month. Immediately on receipt of this information, the authorities concerned were alerted and all efforts were made to trace the servants. Their photographs and other relevant details were circulated to the police authorities in Pakistan. It was confirmed, he added, to the Indian Embassy that the servants were not in the custody of the Pakistani authorities.

The spokesman said the Indian Embassy had further stated that one of the servants, Mr Gupta, had called at the residence of the Indian diplomat, Mr Prashad, on the 2d of the January to inform him that he was in the custody of Pakistani officials and was keen to return. This, the spokesman said, was found upon investigation to be false.

The spokesman also pointed out that the Pakistani Government is a party as is the Government of India to the Vienna diplomatic convention and fully respects the privileges and immunities of the foreign diplomatic missions and their personnel including members of the household staff.

Subcommissions With India Meet 15 January

BK150127 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The meetings of the two subcommissions on trade and economic matters under the Pakistan-India joint commission were held in Islamabad today. The subcommission, which deals with trade, met this morning in the Ministry of Commerce. Both delegations were led by their commerce secretaries. The meeting of the subcommission on economic matters was held separately. The Pakistan delegation was led by the joint secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, while the Indian delegation was headed by the joint secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

The discussions were held in a cordial atmosphere. Both delegations manifested a business-like approach to the various proposals for promotion of cooperation between the two countries in the agreed areas.

The acting foreign secretary hosted a lunch in honor of the Indian commerce secretary at the Foriegn Office. The Indian commerce secretary called on the federal minister for planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, in Islamabad this afternoon. They discussed the scope and [words indistinct] for expansion of trade between the two countries.

PAKISTAN TIMES Cites President on Defense

GF131200 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 4: The president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, today reiterated that Pakistan had no offensive designs against any country and whatever arms were being acquired by it were purely for defence purposes.

Talking to newsmen after the inaugural session of the ulema convention here, he said Pakistan did not give right to any other country to question its defence needs. Similarly, it did not wish to object to the acquisition of arms by others, he said.

When the president's attention was drawn to a report by the U.S. defence experts about the massing of 29 divisions of Indian Army and two-third of its modern jet fighters against Pakistan, he said Pakistan itself was also examining the situation.

To determine the size and requirements of its armed forces according to its own needs was a fundamental right of any country, and India has no right to raise objections about Pakistan's acquiring F-16 and other weapons for its legitimate defence needs, he said.

He said Pakistan knew that India had increased its military might and was continuing to do so, but it had not raised any objection to it.

The president said Pakistan was laboriously maintaining the atmosphere of friendship with India, and hoped that it would not be vitiated, he said.

Politician Discusses India's Border Deployment

GF131108 Rawalpindi PAKISTAN TIMES in English 5 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] Karachi, Jan. 4: Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zehri, president Jeeway Pakistan Party and chairman Pakistan Rabita Council has regretted that at a time when India has deployed 29 divisions on our borders in battle ready condition, political leaders are talking about the restoration of democracy and 1973 constitution and holding of elections in the country.

Addressing a press conference here today, he said that he himself and his party stood for democracy but this was not the time to talk about politics. The presence of Indian troops on our borders demanded that all political leaders and parties should sink their differences and unitedly assist the government in facing the Indian challenge.

Mir Nabi Bakhsh Zehri, who is a senior politician and has played an active part in the creation of Pakistan said if the Indian forces engage out troops, our army would be fighting to defend us and our territory. He said being Pakistanis it should be our aim to

defend our territorial and ideological frontiers and we should extend unqualified support to our armed forces.

He, therefore, suggested that political leaders and martial law authorities should try to bring about flexibility in their respective attitude and give up rigid stands on various issues.

TRIP TO INDIA: Mr Zehri further said he intends taking a peoples goodwill mission to India, sometime next month, to apprise Indian leaders and the people there that an armed conflict would destroy both the countries, and that Pakistan wants to live in peace with its neighbours as an honourable sovereign independent state.

He said he is also inviting all those who believe in peaceful co-existence to join him in making his mission a success.

He expressed the hope that Indian leadership and people would respond favourably to the message of goodwill and friendly feelings.

He urged the political leaders to give preference to national interests and Pakistan over the demand of holding elections and restoration of 1973 constitution.

MRD AGITATION: He claimed that he is one of the senior most living politicians in the country and as an elder politican he had advised the MRD leadership not to indulge in agitational politics and confront the martial law authorities. But the immature MRD leaders did not listen to his advice.

The result, he said is before the nation. The MRD failed in its mission and in the process has badly damaged the cause of politics in the country.

Mir Zehri said that Punjab, Baluchistan, Frontier, Karachi and majority of districts in Sind did not respond to MRD's call. The failure of MRD has badly jeopardised national politics, he said.

Going to jail is not politics, he said and added the MRD leadership did not apply their brains while deciding to launch their movement for the restoration of democracy, he said.

MEETING WITH ZIA: Regarding his meeting with President Zia, he said he had received the confirmation from the president about the proposed meeting in Rawalpindi. However, he added no date had been fixed as yet.

NAWA-E WAQT Views Confederation With Bangladesh

GF131240 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 5 Jan 84 P 3

[Editorial: "Bangladesh-Pakistan Confederation"]

[Excerpts] The secretary general of the Muslim League,Pagaro group, Mr S.M. Zafar, has welcomed a confederation of Pakistan and Bangladesh as an advantageous step for both countries because their political links are an historical fact and even now there are many Muslim League leaders and members in Bangladesh who can work for better and closer relations with Pakistan. He said this while referring to a news item broadcast by Radio Moscow to the effect that the Bangladesh president was trying to bring about a confederation with Pakistan.

It is difficult to judge an item broadcast by Radio Moscow — whether there is any truth in it or it is a mere rumor of the kind slipped by the media of the Soviet Union and its ally and accomplice, India.

The prospect of a confederation between Pakistan and Bangladesh or any kind of link and cooperation depends on what our Bengali brothers consider to be in their interest. Bangladesh came into existence with their efforts and the instigation of the enemy. Therefore, any initiative for mutual ties or a resumption of the same must come from the Bengalis. However, Pakistan's policy should be first to set its own house in order so that it may serve as an example, a motivating factor and, on the other hand, whatever step is taken by Bangladesh for renewal of ties, Pakistan should welcome it in a generous and cordial manner. This is necessary in view of the history of the Muslims of the subcontinent and their political struggle side by side to remain free from oppressive Hindi dominance and as a part of that unity and solidarity of the Islamic world for which Pakistan has always strived.

If circumstances have made Bangladesh aware of the need and benefits of a united Pakistan, then it is not an unexpected phenomenon. However, the question arises— have we been able to unite the "remaining country" into "one nation" in the light of our bitter experience and have we been successful?

Acting Chief Martial Law Administrator Named

BK131549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Chief Justice Mohammad Haleem will be the acting president during President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq's trip abroad and Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman General Mohammad Iqbal Khan will be the acting chief martial law administrator during that period.

Spokesman Denies Representation Request at ICO

LD161134 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, commenting on reports sent by some agencies in connection with reports indicating that some other member countries will represent Iran at the summit session of the Islamic Conference Organization in Casablanca, said: Basically, within the framework of the regulations governing the conference, other countries cannot represent a country. On that basis, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made no such request to any country.

He added: The activities and stances taken by friendly countries in defending the Islamic Republic of Iran and putting forward its views are appreciated by us. We hope that supporting these views will strengthen the legitimate stance. [as heard]

Iraqi Assembly Addresses Statement to ICO Summit

GF151720 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] today addressed a statement to the Islamic summit conference scheduled to be held in Morocco tomorrow. The statement says: It is truly astonishing that such a conference is being held in Morocco whose regime is considered one of the most obvious supporters of U.S. imperialism in North Africa. The statement adds: Convening the Islamic summit conference at this time — during which the entire Muslim world is witnessing an escalating jihad movement and an important popular move toward implementing the religion of Almighty God — places in the hands of Muslim rulers a winning card and a dangerous reserve of power that they could utilize to confront the treacherous international imperialism if they were truly independent of the hegemony of both East and West.

The statement demands that Muslim rulers adopt serious action to make Islam govern all aspects of life and to adopt a firm stand toward the powers of arrogance which attempt to undermine the current of Islamic revolution which stemmed from Iran; fully reject all attempts to break the grid of isolation around the ruling regime in Egypt, which is allied with the Zionist entity; clearly denounce the regime of criminal Saddam who upon the instructions of America and Zionism waged aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran with the aim of eliminating the powers of the Muslim peoples of Iran and Iraq; support the question of the Palestinian Muslim people, the Lebanese Muslim people, the Afghan Muslim people, and all the questions of liberation; and pressure all agent regimes in the region to end their support for Saddam's regime.

The SAIRI also called on the participants of the Islamic summit conference to respect the rights of Muslims in Iraq by rejecting the Iraqi regime's participation in the conference's meetings.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayer Sermons

Comments on War

LD131401 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Excerpt] In the second sermon of Friday prayers held today at Tehran University, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recalled the role of the Islamic Revolution in quickly exposing the secrecy of the superpowers and their agents in captivating the world's deprived and oppressed. The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly said:

[Begin recording] For some time America declared that it was neutral in the Iran-Iraq war. It gave wheat, helicopters, and ammunition to Iraq and we did not say anything. Of course, we protested, but our protest did not get anywhere; it did not bring disgrace on America. Then the situation reached the stage where America realized Saddam could not be saved in that way, that the foundations of his power were becoming weaker and shakier. Then America acted explicitly.

One of the issues about which they made a lot of noise was the use of toxic gases in war. A big conference with 60 countries participating met to discuss these issues. America was discredited.

To compensate for the disgrace of defeat it suffered and to save itself for a while, Iraq had to use toxic gases on several fronts; it discredited itself, America, and Britain. A few days ago, some cargo from an Iraqi ship carrying poisonous chemicals from Britain — which claims to be neutral — leaked into the sea at Cherbourg in France. To preserve the environment, they were forced to declare it a poisonous zone, thus causing the scandal. This is a great scandal for world arrogance.

Saddam, who was apparently so much engaged with the Talebanis, has recently been forced to bring in this pawn too for support. It is probably a blessing that, in the future, when the Iraqi nation is liberated, this hypocritical Talebani group will not (?ask for a share of power)— their situation will be clear; on that day, Syria or Libya will not say the Talebanies used to fight for the people. It is probably a divine blessing that he gave them autonomy. He did that when our forces neared their sensitive centers. Saddam is trying very hard to save himself and, by doing this, he is exposing and discrediting himself, his supporters, his masters, and everybody else one by one. If he had fallen a year ago,many people would not have been exposed. If he falls today, some things about him will remain unknown. The longer the war lasts, the more these pages will be revealed and faces will be identified. The Kuwaitis committed the crime of arresting and extraditing fugitive Muslims and crusading Iraqis to Saddam. This action will worsen future relations between Kuwait and the Iraqi nation — who is the next Iraqi ruler — to the extent that I do not know what Kuwait's future will be.

These are achievements and, to this end, we may offer some martyrs. But the values created by them, the issues they reveal,

and the paths they open to the people are all valuable. Iraq may continue trying very hard to save itself, and they may all support it. But the day when the roar of our guns can be heard from the outskirts of Baghdad by those who live in palaces in Baghdad, and the day when the smell of our gunpowder can be sensed in houses in Baghdad, it will not be able to resist any longer — we shall do that. [chanting of slogans by audience] [end recording]

Remarks on Palestinians, Kuwait

GF131930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Friday Arabic sermon by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during Friday prayers at Tehran University on 13 January — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings to all the Muslim strugglers in all the languages of the world. Today a historic and fateful stage is experienced by the Islamic and Arab nation. The road of Islam has become clear through the road to [words indistinct]. The opportunity has been paved for the people. So there has been distinction between the traitor and the (?faithful) and the [words indistinct]. The people today stand up to impose sanctions on many of the governments of the Islamic world. Many of the governments of the Islamic world regretfully joined the ranks of the unbelievers.

The Palestinians are exerting pressure on their leaders and demanding loyalty to correct the path of their movement and to carry out serious operations against Israel.

We have seen how the Kuwaiti people rang the bells of alarm for their leaders and masters by forcing the Kuwaiti authorities to resort to force and injustice instead of complying with the people's will.

The authorities have revealed their weakness. The authorities deported a group of oppressed Iraqi refugees and delivered them to the 'Aflaqis. It expelled the Iranian workers and attacked the people, beating, killing, and arresting them. However, sooner or later, the authorities will comply with the correct and rightful demands of the Muslim people and support Islam against the 'Aflaqis.

AFP: Tudeh Party Ideologist Suffers Stroke

NC141423 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan 14 (AFP) — The chief ideologist of Tudeh, Iran's communist party, has suffered a stroke in prison and is being cared for, officials were quoted as saying in reports published here today.

Tudeh ideologist Ehsan Tabari was said by the speaker of parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to have suffered his attack in prison. There were no further reports as to his condition. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani also was quoted as saying Mr. Tabari had criticized a number of Marxist thinkers, including Engels and Marx himself.

The report was the first for several months on Mr. Tabari, who along with other Tudeh members was accused last April of spying in Iran for the Soviet Union. Thousands of suspected Tudeh members have since been arrested, and trials are currently taking place. In April, the secretary-general of Tudeh, Nureddin Kianuri, confessed in a televised interview that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

Radio Iran: Tudeh Party Holds Plenum in GDR

GF151806 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] The newly-formed Tudeh Party Central Committee held its plenum in the GDR in the absence of all the members of the Central Committee who are currently residents of Khomeyni's prisons.

Political analysts consider the holding of the plenum — considering the trial of the Tudeh leaders is in progress in Tehran — a form of official coup d'etat against the Kianuri gang. Kianuri and his gang are accused of having spoken on the Islamic Republic television against the interests of the Soviet Union and also of revealing the espionage activities of Soviet agents.

The leader of the party coup d'etat is 'Ali Khavari, an admirer of the Soviet Union, who is currently living in the GDR. The session of the newly-formed Central Committee was attended by two former secretary generals, the 72-year-old Radmanesh and the 73-year-old Iraj Eskandari.

Reports by sources close to the Tudeh Party indicate that Radmanesh left the plenum as a sign of protest, stating that the expulsion of the imprisoned party leaders from the party would further dishonor the party.

Reports indicate that the new Central Committee has been made up of individuals whose subservience to international communism is beyond any doubt. A Tudeh leader, Amir Khosravi, who was invited to the GDR to participate in the plenum, was unable to obtain a visa for the GDR and thus did not attend the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party. The handful of remaining Tudeh Party leaders were thus able to officially withdraw any power from Kianuri's gang and put forward a new leadership for the party.

Rome Embassy Denies 'Carlos' Connection

LD142207 Rome Domestic Service in Italian 2130 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The Iranian Embassy in Rome has issued a press release denying allegations claiming the existence of a connection between the international terrorist, Carlos, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The embassy also describes reports alleging that Iranian authorities are encouraging drug addiction in order to raise the morale of troops engaged in the war against Iraq as totally false.

IRNA Reports Saudi-Iraqi Financial, Economic Accord

GF160533 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA — The Saudi monarchy and the Iraqi regime signed a financial and economic agreement in Riyadh, reports said today.

The agreement came only a few days after the American order to its agent regimes in the region to give further support for the bankrupt Iraqi regime.

According to the official SAUDI news agency, the agreement will eliminate obstacles in the transfer of capital between the two regimes.

Reports from Riyadh also said the agreement apparently deals with commercial relations and trade but it is not clear what goods will be traded between the two countries both of which are big importers of agricultural and industrial goods.

The Voice of America radio said a few days earlier that officials at the American State Department have urged friendly countries in the Middle East to step up their financial, political and military aide to Iraq.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,603

LD131734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,603 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire between the combatants of Islam and the Ba'thist Iraqi mercenaries continued on the operational fronts of Sar Dasht, Piranshah, and Marivan. The combatants of Islam silenced the Saddamists fire on each front and deployed intensive artillery and mortar fire on bases, motorized columns, and bridges on Iraqi military supply routes and defense lines and inflicted considerable damage and casualties on the Saddamist mercenaries. In the Hajj 'Umran region, several foxholes, trenches, and mortar emplacements were destroyed and several Iraqi mercenary bases sustained some damage. In the Panjwin region, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and the Saddamists' efforts to dig trenches and plant mines were interrupted. On the same front, one of our patrol groups was involved in combat with an enemy patrol group; three RPG-7's, some Kalashnikovs, and a radio receiving set were taken as booty by our forces; a number of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

On the border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam and on the southern fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy continued. The combatants of Islam, while consoldating their defensive positions and guarding regions under their protection, opened artillery fire on enemy infantry, tank, and artillery positions. Our forces silenced enemy fire and dispatched patrol groups to survey Iraqi troop movements and activities. Damage and casualties sustained by the Saddamist mercenaries on these fronts include destruction of some of their positions and observation posts and death or injury to a number of their personnel.

In an exchange of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the courageous combatants of Islam first halted enemy fire and then opened fire on enemy positions and fortifications on the far side of the Arvand Rud; at least 12 machinegun, mortar, and light and heavy weapons emplacements were destroyed.

Yesterday, several areas of Abadan came under enemy heavy weapons fire; several houses and shops sustained damage.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,604

LD141714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,604 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Yesterday, exchanges of fire continued on the border fronts northwest of the country. In the operational region of Sar Dasht, the combative units of Islam opened fire on enemy positions, inflicted damage on several enemy bases, installations, and fortifications, and destroyed a bridge on the Saddamists' supply route. In the operational regions of Marivan and Panjwin, our forces destroyed a number of foxholes and trenches and a few enemy vehicles in the Bani Banuk and (Shonam) area and killed or wounded a number of Iraqi forces. As a result of fire by our combatants, most of the (Biyareh) Garrison inside Iraq was destroyed and a number of mercenaries were killed.

On the southern and western fronts, exchanges of fire between our forces and those of the enemy continued along the line of contact. The powerful forces of Islam destroyed a motor pool and a large number of foxholes of the Iraqi forces situated on the Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts and also destroyed foxholes, trenches, and observation posts to the west of the Arvand Rud.

Yesterday, enemy long-range and heavy weapons fire on residential districts of Abadan damaged five houses.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,605

LD151724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Communique No 1,605 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, a sporadic exchange of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between the combatants of Islam and the aggressor Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq on all the fronts of the imposed war. Our victorious forces

continued to defend and further strengthen their defensive positions. By dispatching patrol groups and look-out operations and with heavy artillery fire on enemy defensive positions, artillery and tank positions, and supply roads, they silenced enemy fire and disrupted the movements of the Saddamist units and motorized columns. On all fronts, they inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces. In the Sar Dasht border sector,an enemy motorized column was brought under fire, scattering the column and destroying a truck carrying personnel.

In the Marivan and Panjwin border region, parts of enemy defensive positions were set on fire and several enemy tanks and vehicles were totally or partially destroyed.

On the Bakhtaran and Ilam border fronts and the southern fronts, there were enemy casualties, with a number of enemy personnel killed or wounded; there were also enemy losses through the destruction of a number of slit trenches and foxholes.

During exchanges of fire on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, Gendarmerie combatants hit enemy positions and units on the other side of the Arvand Rud, killing or injuring about 15 enemy personnel; a 106-mm gun together with its crew and 12 light and heavy weapons emplacements and two observation posts were also destroyed; enemy movements on the Al- Faw-Basra axis were also prevented.

Yesterday, Abadan again came under enemy fire, resulting in damage to a number of houses and city installations; four dear compatriots were wounded.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Free Voice of Iran Describes Demonstrations

GF151738 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] Tens of thousands of citizens of Tehran, Tabriz, Esfahan, Rasht, Behbehan, Hamadan, and elsewhere, in widespread demonstrations, demanded an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Our correspondents have reported that people showed their extreme hatred for the continuation of the war and the insistence of the ruling regime for the continuation of the war through their demonstrations. They have asked the officials of the Tehran regime to end the useless war.

Reports also indicate that numerous night pamphlets and leaflets recently have been circulating in various cities; they concern the adverse effects of the continued war. They condemn the warmongering policies of Khomeyni's regime.

The extensive demonstrations of the tens of thousands of people occurred last week. However, news agencies lacking any representatives in Iran have been unable to report on the events. Currently, severe censorship persists in the mass media, especially radio, television, and the confiscated newspapers. The regime has not published any report in this respect.

Afghanistan Executes 40 Muslims 23 Dec

GF121118 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] On 23 December, the ruling regime in Afghanistan executed 40 Muslim Afghan citizens, including a number of struggling clergymen, in retaliation for the escalating military operations by the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries against the Soviet invaders and against the troops of the ruling regime in Kabul. Some reports stress that the Soviet occupation forces and the Afghan Government forces dumped the bodies of these executed martyrs in a mass grave.